



By the King.

A Proclamation for the setting of the Letter  
Office of England and Scotland.



Hereas to this time there hath beene no certaine or constant enter-  
course betweene the Kingdomes of England and Scotland, His Maestie  
hath beene graciously pleased, to command his seruant Thomas  
Witherings Esquire, His Maesties Post-master of England for forraigne  
parts, to settle a running Post, or two, to run night and day betweene  
Edenburgh in Scotland, and the City of London; to goe thither, and come  
backe againe in fixe dayes, and to take with them all such Letters as  
shall be directed to any Post-towne, or any place neere any Post-towne  
in the said Roade, which Letters to bee left at the Post-house, or some other house, as the said  
Thomas Witherings shall thinke conuenient: And By-Posts to be placed at severall places out of  
the said Roade, to run and bring in, and carry out of the said Roades the Letters from Lincolne,  
Hull, and other places, as there shall be occasion, and answers to bee brought againe accordingly;  
And to pay Port for the carrying and retarrying of the said Letters, two pence the single  
Letter, if vnder fourescore miles; And betweene fourescore, and one hundred and forty Miles,  
Foure pence; If aboue a hundred and forty Miles, then Sixe pence; and vpon the borders of  
Scotland, and in Scotland, Eight pence: If there be two, three, foure, or five Letters in one Packet,  
or more, Then to pay according to the bignesse of the said Packet, after the rate as before; which  
money for Port as before, is to be paid vpon the receiuing and deliuey of the said Letters here  
in London.

The like rule His Maestie is pleased to order the said Thomas Witherings to obserue to  
Westchester, Holyhead, and from thence to Ireland, according to a prouision made by the Lord De-  
putie and Councill there; and to take Port betwixt the City of London and Holyhead, as before to  
the Northward; and to goe thither, and bring answers backe to the City of London, from all  
the places in that Roade in fixe dayes, which is constantly hereafter to be obserued; and to settle  
By-posts in the said Roade, as there shall bee occasion, for the benefit of all His Maesties louing  
Subjects.

His Maestie is pleased further to command the said Thomas Witherings, to obserue the  
like rule from the City of London to Plymouth; and to prouide sufficient messengers to run night  
and day to Plymouth, and to returne within fixe dayes to the City of London, and for carriage of the



said Letters to Plymouth, Exeter, and other places in that Roade, His Maiesty doth order the said Thomas Witherings, to take the like Post that now is paid as neere as possibly he can.

And further, His Maiesty doth Command and Order the said Thomas Witherings, so soone as possibly may be, to settle the like conueyance for Letters from Oxon, Bristoll, and other places on that Roade, for the benefit of all His Subjects; And the like the said Thomas Witherings is to obserue with all conuenient speed to Colchester, and so to Norwich, and diuers other places in that Roade.

The three first conueyances from London to Edenburgh, from London to Westchester and Holyhead in Wales, and from London to Plymouth and Exeter, are to begin the first week after Michaelmas next.

Now for the better enabling the said Thomas Witherings to go forward with this seruice, and for the aduancement of all His Maiesties Subjects in their trade and correspondence; His Maiesty doth hereby Command and Order all his Post-Masters vpon all the Roades of England, To haue ready in their Stables one or two horses, according as the said Thomas Witherings shall haue occasion to vse them, to carry such Messengers with their portmantles, as shall be employed in the said seruice, to such Stage or place as his present occasions shall direct him to: If the said Messenger shall haue occasion but for one horse, then to leaue him at the place where he shall take fresh horse, paying for him Two pence halfe peny for euery Mile; If two horses, then to take a Guide, and pay fve pence a Mile.

And that the said Post-masters may be prouided for this seruice, His Maiesty doth hereby Order and Command, that such horses as shall be prouided for the said seruice, shall not vpon that day the Messenger shall be expected, let, or send forth the said horses so prouided, vpon any other occasion whatsoever.

And His Maiesties further will and pleasure is, that from the beginning of this seruice or imployment, no other Messenger or Messengers, Foot-post or Foot-posts, shall take by, carry, receiue, or deliuer any Letter or Letters whatsoever, other then the Messengers appointed by the said Thomas Witherings to any such place or places as the said Thomas Witherings shall settle the conueyances, as aforesaid. Except common known Carriers, or a particular Messenger, to be sent of purpose with a Letter by any man for his owne occasions, or a Letter by a friend. And if any Post, Messenger, or Letter-Carrier whatsoever, shall offend contrary to this His Maiesties Proclamation; His Maiesty vpon complaint thereof made, will cause a seuerer exemplary punishment to be inflicted vpon such delinquents.

And His Maiesty doth hereby strictly require and Command all his loving Subjects whatsoever, duly to obserue and performe His Royall pleasure herein declared, as they will answere the contrary at their perils.

And lastly, His Maiesty doth hereby charge and command all Iustices of Peace, Maiors, Sherifes, Balliffes, Constables, Headboroughs, and all other His Officers and Ministers whatsoever, to be aiding and assisting to the said Thomas Witherings, in the due accomplishment of this His Maiesties will and pleasure.

Giuen at Our Court at Bagshot, the last day of Iuly, in the eleuenth yeere of Our Reigne. 1635.

God saue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by ROBERT BARKER, Printer to the Kings most Excellent Maiesty: And by the Assignes of JOHN BILL. 1635.